



## **Sjeleregister (index of literacy and religion) for Norway**

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This class is designed to teach family history researchers how to find family in the Sjeleregister of Norway.

### **Objectives:**

Patrons will be able to find family in: Sjeleregister

### **Background:**

The Sjeleregister is a record kept by the parish priest from the 1600s to the 1800s. It include valuable information about people living under the priest's jurisdiction. Sjeleregister is translated in Digitalarkivet to mean "index of literacy and religion" which in many cases is correct, but in some cases, it also resembles the 1801 census for Norway. It is kept in several formats of which we will look at in this class. In some cases, it starts before the parish register is available, which can be of great help to researchers. It is not available for every parish in Norway, but the Sjeleregister is kept for one or more parishes in every county in Norway. It may list information of birth, for every person in a family or in some cases of every youth in a parish including who could read or understand the Lutheran Catechism. This is an excellent source when other records are not available.

Available in Digitalarkivet of Norway: <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/>

### **Getting started:**

Go to "Digitalarkivet", see link above, and click on "Find source." Next find "Geography" and find the county of your choice and click on "select all". Next under the tab "Category" scroll down until you find "Clerical archives" click on it and find "Register of literacy and religion (Sjeleregister)" and click on it and next click on "Search" at the top of the screen. You should now see a list of the Sjeleregister in your county. Choose the Sjeleregister for your parish and click on "Browse scans." This will bring you to a new screen where you may click on a number or the word "upaginert" on the right side of the page. You will now be able to navigate through the Sjeleregister by clicking on

the back or forth arrows to move forward or backwards one page at a time. A family is usually listed under the name of the farm where they lived. Move forward page by page until you find your farm and then look for your family.

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